

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 015755
ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-01 L-01 H-01 OES-02 /010 R

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P 200200Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, RW

SUBJECT: PROTECTION AND WELFARE:DR. DIAN FOSSEY

REF: KIGALI 93

1. DEPARTMENT SHARES YOUR CONCERN FOR DR. FOSSEY AND POSSIBLE NEGATIVE IMPACT AN UNPLEASANT INCIDENT WOULD HAVE ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ARE ALSO WORRIED ABOUT HER HEALTH. WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE DOING YOUR UTMOST TO AVOID ESCALATION OF PROBLEM AND IT APPEARS THAT HIGH LEVELS GOR ALSO GOING TO LENGTHS TO AVOID CONFRONTATION.

2. AT RISK OF GIVING GRATUITOUS ADVICE WE BELIEVE THAT YOU IN DUAL ROLE OF FRIEND AND AMBASSADOR ARE BEST SITUATED TO HAVE CALMING EFFECT ON DR. FOSSEY. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SHE BE BROUGHT TO UNDERSTAND THAT HER STATUS AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VISITOR IN RWANDA AND FUTURE OF HER WORK CONSTRAINS HER TO EXERCISE TACT AND RESTRAINT IN DEALING WITH LOCAL OFFICIALDOM AND TO AVOID AT ALL COSTS ANY ACTIONS THAT MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS TAKING THE LAW INTO HER OWN HANDS.

3. YOU SHOULD, UPON APPROPRIATE OCCASION, REITERATE TO GOR THE IMPORTANCE THAT USG ATTACHES TO RESEARCH AND

CONSERVATION WORK OF THE TYPE UNDERTAKEN BY DR. FOSSEY IN

THE CONTEXT OF OUR EFFORTS IN THE AREA OF PROTECTING
ENDANGERED SPECIES. AS RWANDA'S LAST GREAT REFUGE OF
MOUNTAIN GORILLA, GOR HAS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO
ENSURE THAT THIS ANIMAL IS PROTECTED SO THAT ITS
SURVIVAL MAY BE ASSURED.

4. DEPARTMENT HAS DISCUSSED RECENT EVENTS WITH DR. ED
SNIDER OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC WHO SUPERVISES FOSSEY
RESEARCH GRANT. HE IN TURN MET WITH DR. PAYNE,
CHAIRMAN OF RESEARCH BOARD, BOTH ARE LONG TIME
COLLEAGUES AND ADVISORS TO DR. FOSSEY. ON NG'S BEHALF,
PAYNE HAS CABLED DR. FOSSEY DIRECTLY TO URGE
RESTRAINT.

5. AS CONTINGENCY, YOU SHOULD REACQUAINT YOURSELF WITH
PROCEDURES FOR REPATRIATION OF AMCITS IN 7FAM 360 AND
STATE A-1373 MARCH 22, 1977. CHRISTOPHER

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